

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1/ (Withdrawn) A method of fabricating a strip of electric contact springs for an electrical connector, said springs being united at their ends by two continuous side strips, the springs being displaced from the plane of said side strips by being twisted about their respective longitudinal axes that are perpendicular to the length of the strip, wherein the starting material is a strip of a plastically deformable material that is capable of acquiring elastic spring properties after treatment, at least the central portion of the strip is coated on only one of its two faces in a layer of a material that is a good conductor of electricity, said strip then being punched so as to obtain said springs and continuous side strips, and said springs are then displaced from the plane of said side strips by said twisting, and wherein one edge of each spring is folded down as a hem in the direction that ensures that the electrically conductive coating remains on the outside of the fold, and said strip is then subjected to hardening treatment to confer elastic spring properties thereto.

2/ (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 1, wherein, prior to said hardening treatment, said side strips are pleated in such a manner as to move the springs closer to one another, thereby increasing the number of springs per unit length.

3. [[/]] (Currently amended) A strip of electric contact springs for an electrical connector, said springs being ~~united~~ integral at their lengthwise ends ~~by with~~ two continuous side strips, the springs being displaced from ~~the~~ a plane of said side strips by twisting about their respective longitudinal axes, wherein said axes of said springs ~~that~~ are perpendicular to ~~the~~ a lengthwise direction of the strip, said strip being made of a material having elastic spring

properties, wherein each spring includes at least two faces, and at least the a central portion of one face of each spring is coated with an electrically conductive coating on one only of its faces in a material that is a good conductor of electricity, and wherein one of the edges of each spring is folded down as a hem in the direction which causes the electrically conductive coating to appear on an the outside portion of the fold, and wherein

the side strips are pleated and include a plurality of side tongues, the side tongues being of less thickness than the pleated side strips.

4/ (Cancelled).

5. (New) A strip of electrical contact springs, wherein:

said springs are elastic and include at least two surfaces, wherein only one of the surfaces is coated with an electrically conductive coating; and

said springs include two ends with a first end connected to a first side strip and a second end connected to a second side strip, wherein said springs each rotate on an axis, said axis drawn from where said first end connects to said first side strip to where said second end connects to said second side strip, wherein a plane created by said at least two surfaces of said springs is oblique to a plane created by said first and second side strips, and wherein said side strips are pleated.

6. (New) The strip of claim 5, wherein said pleated side strips further include side tongues, said side tongues not being pleated and being of lesser thickness than said pleated side strips.